

We claim:

1 1. A housing for an interactive computer system, comprising:
2 a tabletop having a frame therein for supporting a display oriented to be
3 viewed from over the tabletop;
4 a base for supporting at least a portion of the tabletop, the base having a
5 first end, a second end and a hollow section disposed between the first and second ends,
6 the hollow section adapted for receiving a cord including at least one of: a network
7 communication line, a telecommunications line and an electrical transmission line; and
8 the tabletop further including an opening for receiving the cord from the
9 base.

10 2. The housing of claim 1, wherein the frame is positioned to allow the display
11 to be oriented in a substantially vertical alignment compared to the tabletop.

12 3. The housing of claim 1, wherein the frame is positioned to allow the display
13 to be oriented at a predetermined angle from a seating position of the tabletop.

14 4. The housing of claim 1, further comprising the display.

15 5. The housing of claim 4, further comprising:
16 the cord, wherein the cord provides at least one of electrical power and
17 display data to the display.

18 6. The housing of claim 4, further comprising:

2 at least one of: a water-resistant, a water-proof and water-tight surface
3 disposed above the tabletop for enclosing the display within the tabletop.

1 7. The housing of claim 6, wherein the surface is substantially flat.

1 8. The housing of claim 6, wherein the surface comprises at least one of: a
2 transparent and a translucent material through which the display may be viewed.

1 9. The housing of claim 4, wherein the frame is further provided for supporting
2 a computer.

1 10. The housing of claim 9, further comprising the computer.

1 11. The housing of claim 10, further comprising:
2 the cord, wherein the cord provides at least one of electrical power and
3 network data to the computer.

1 12. The housing of claim 11, wherein the cord is further provided for
2 transmitting network data from the computer.

1 13. The housing of claim 10, further comprising:
2 an input device for transmitting command data to the computer, the
3 command data entered by a user.

1 14. The housing of claim 13, wherein the input device is a keyboard.

1 15. The housing of claim 14, wherein the keyboard is disposed within the
2 tabletop.

1 16. The housing of claim 14, wherein the keyboard is disposed within at least
2 one of: a water-proof, a water-tight, and a water-resistant covering.

1 17. The housing of claim 14, wherein the input device is a viewing orientation
2 selector.

1 18. The housing of claim 14, wherein the input device is a lockout device for
2 preventing at least one of: a change in a viewing orientation of the display and an input
3 from a second input device.

1 19. The housing of claim 14, wherein the input device is a receiver for receiving
2 wireless input signals from a remote device.

1 20. The housing of claim 14, wherein the input device is at least one of a touch
2 pad, a touch-screen, a mouse and a camera.

1 21. The housing of claim 10, further comprising:
2 an output device including-at least one of: a speaker, a television signal
3 receiver, a radio signal receiver and a printer.

1 22. The housing of claim 10, further comprising:

PATENT

2 a currency acceptor for accepting a currency value from at least one of: a
3 deposited coin, a deposited currency note, a credit card, a debit card, a smart card, a
4 telephone calling card, a financial account identifier and a pre-paid telephone card, the
5 currency acceptor for transmitting the currency value to the computer as a payment for a
6 service.

1 23. The housing of claim 22, wherein the service includes at least one of:
2 an Internet access, a rental of an input device, a rental of a game, a
3 restaurant bill, and a product ordered through the computer.

1 24. The housing of claim 10, wherein the computer comprises a communication
2 port operatively connected to the cord for transmitting data between the computer and a
3 network.

1 25. The housing of claim 24, wherein the network comprises at least one of:
2 a local-area network, a wide-area network, an Internet and an Intranet.

1 26. The housing of claim 25, wherein the computer receives access limitation
2 data from a server connected to the network.

1 27. The housing of claim 10, wherein the computer stores user login data for a
2 predetermined time.

1 28. The housing of claim 27, wherein the predetermined time is substantially a
2 difference between a user login time and a user logoff time.

1 29. The housing of claim 4, further comprising:
2 the cord for connecting the display to a remote server; and
3 an input device connected to the remote server via the cord, the cord for
4 transmitting a command signal from the input device to the remote server and for
5 transmitting a display signal from the remote server to the display.

1 30. The housing of claim 1, further comprising:
2 a telephone operatively connected to the cord.

1 31. An interactive computer system, comprising:
2 a tabletop;
3 a display disposed within the tabletop for providing an image; and
4 a viewing orientation selector for changing an orientation of the image to
5 accommodate a plurality of seating positions.

1 32. The system of claim 31, wherein the display has a substantially vertical
2 alignment in comparison to the tabletop.

1 33. The system of claim 31, wherein the display is oriented at a predetermined
2 angle from a seating position of the tabletop.

1 34. The system of claim 31, further comprising:
2 at least one of: a water-proof, a water-resistant and a water-tight surface
3 disposed above the tabletop for enclosing the display within the tabletop.

1 35. The housing of claim 34, wherein the surface is substantially flat.

1 36. The housing of claim 34, wherein the surface comprises at least one of: a
2 transparent and a translucent material, with the display visible therethrough.

1 37. The system of claim 31, further comprising the computer.

1 38. The system of claim 37, further comprising:
2 an input device for transmitting command data to the computer, the
3 command data entered by a user.

1 39. The system of claim 38, wherein the input device is a keyboard.

1 40. The system of claim 39, wherein the keyboard is disposed within the
2 tabletop.

1 41. The system of claim 39, wherein the keyboard is disposed within at least
2 one of: a water-proof, a water-resistant and a water-tight covering.

1 42. The system of claim 38, wherein the input device is a lockout device for
2 preventing at least one of: a change in the orientation of the image and an input from a
3 second input device.

1 43. The system of claim 38, wherein the input device is a receiver for receiving

2 wireless input signals from a remote device.

1 44. The system of claim 38, wherein the input device is at least one of a touch
2 pad, a touch-screen and a camera.

1 45. The system of claim 31, further comprising:
2 an output device including at least one of: a speaker, a television signal
3 receiver, a radio signal receiver and a printer.

1 46. The system of claim 31, further comprising:
2 a currency acceptor for accepting a currency value from at least one of: a
3 deposited coin, a deposited currency note, a credit card, a debit card, a smart card, a
4 telephone calling card, a financial account identifier and a pre-paid telephone card, the
5 currency acceptor for transmitting the currency value to the computer as a payment for a
6 service.

1 47. The system of claim 46, wherein the service includes at least one of:
2 an Internet access, a rental of an input device, a rental of a game, a
3 restaurant bill, and a product ordered through the computer.

1 48. The system of claim 31, wherein the computer comprises a communication
2 port operatively connected to a cord for transmitting data between the computer and a
3 network.

PATENT

1 49. The system of claim 48, wherein the network comprises at least one of:
2 a local-area network, a wide-area network, an Internet and an Intranet.

1 50. The system of claim 49, wherein the computer receives access limitation
2 data from a server connected to the network.

1 51. The system of claim 31, wherein the computer stores user login data for a
2 predetermined time.

1 52. The system of claim 51, wherein the predetermined time is substantially a
2 difference between a user login time and a user logoff time.

1 53. The system of claim 31, further comprising:
2 a cord for connecting the display to a remote server; and
3 an input device connected to the remote server via the cord, the cord for
4 transmitting a command signal from the input device to the remote server and for
5 transmitting a display signal from the remote server to the display.

1 54. The system of claim 31, further comprising:
2 a telephone.